

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/693,329
Attorney Docket: 46675-0005
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the Office Action dated August 29, 2006 wherein the Examiner:

(i) rejected to claims 3, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,464,375);

(ii) rejected claims 4, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated over Wada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,464,375);

(iii) rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated over Wada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,464,375) in view of Masuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,796,669);

(iv) allowed claims 39-45 and 47-53; and

(v) objected to claims 6 and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and, when coupled with the amendments made herein, are believed to render all claims at issue patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Applicant reiterates that the claims as presented in their August 11, 2006 Amendment and Response are allowable over the prior art. Nonetheless, Applicant has amended claim 6 to be in independent form, and has amended all remaining claims rejected by the Examiner to depend from this allowable independent claim in order to obtain a Notice of Allowance. Therefore, Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this Application.

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Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant has responded in a fully satisfactory manner to all matters at issue in this Application, and that this Application is now in condition for allowance. In this regard, Applicant has made every effort to comply with the requirements set forth in the Office Action as well as the statutory requirements. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the pending claims and pass the Application to issue. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 433-7570.


Applicant believes there are no fees due for this document, however, if any fees are due, the Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061 in the name of Dickinson Wright PLLC.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dickinson Wright PLLC
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

Date: November 29, 2006

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